



Seattle Residents, Businesses and Organizations **What You Can Do to Reduce Global Warming**

There is no single solution to the threat of climate change, no magic pill to reduce emissions. Instead, success will depend on people taking small steps, every day, at home, at work, on the road and in their community.

Seattleites have done it before. Rather than investing in costly new power plants and water systems decades ago to meet the needs of a growing population, the people of Seattle chose conservation instead. Today, we use less water than we did in 1975 even though our population has grown 25 percent.

The solution begins with you. Here are steps you can take to reduce emissions to make a difference for the future of our city and our planet.

On the Road

Drive less. Use public transit or ride-share. Walk, cycle, jog or in-line skate and get some exercise at the same time. Shop close to home or work and combine all your errands into one trip. You'll save time, money and fuel, and avoid traffic.

Drive Smart. Keep cars and trucks tuned and tires properly inflated. Don't idle when you're stuck—about 15 seconds is the breakeven point. Forget jack rabbit starts; they cut fuel efficiency by 31 percent! On the highway, drive the speed limit. You'll do more than cut emissions, you will avoid tickets, improve safety, reduce stress and lower car maintenance bills.

Drive the cleanest vehicle you can. If you double the mileage of your vehicle, you'll halve the greenhouse gas emissions. Plus, new gas-electric hybrid vehicles are eligible for a federal tax credit. If you go diesel, the more biodiesel you use, the fewer emissions you produce.

In Your Home

Turn down, turn off and unplug. Set thermostats at 68 degrees when you're home and 55 or lower when you're away or at night. Turn off lights in empty rooms and unplug electronics and cell phone chargers that aren't in use.

Use efficient bulbs. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are 75 percent more efficient than incandescent bulbs and last much longer. According to EPA, if every U.S. household replaced one bulb with a CFL, it would cut the climate pollution of a million cars.

Conserve water. Your hot water tank is your home's second largest user of energy. Set your tank at 120 degrees, take shorter showers, use water-efficient dishwashers and washing machines, run them only when full and wash clothes in cold water. You'll save money on energy and water.

Install an efficient furnace. Older gas furnaces and boilers waste energy. Modern systems can be as high as 97 percent efficient, meaning the energy you pay for actually heats your home. An ENERGY STAR® brand furnace can save you up to 40 percent on heating bills.

Use a push or electric mower. Going manual or electric is cleaner and quieter.

Tighten up that fireplace. Wood-burning fireplaces can be a big energy drain, sucking heating dollars up the chimney. Energy-saving options include low-cost removable flue sealers to fireplace doors or a new high-efficiency gas insert.

Insulate. Insulating basement walls and attics can reduce your energy bill by as much as 30 percent. Plug leaks around doors, windows, attic hatches and in walls.

Freeze out pollution. Set the fridge at 35 to 38 degrees and the freezer at zero for maximum efficiency. Clean coils regularly. Keep the rubber door seals clean and tight. Keep the fridge and freezer away from heat sources.

Recycle and compost. Waste prevention, recycling and composting divert organic wastes from landfills, reducing methane that would be released if these materials decomposed in the dump.

Utilize your utility. Both Puget Sound Energy (1-800-562-1482, pse.com/solutions) and Seattle City Light (206-684-3800, seattle.gov/light/conserve) want to work with you to improve energy efficiency. They can provide information, technical assistance and even grants and rebates to help pay for energy efficiency improvements.

At Work

Join the Seattle Climate Partnership. Be a leader by linking with organizations such as Starbucks, REI Inc., the University of Washington, Lafarge North America and the Group Health Cooperative. Share best practices and leverage the power of cooperation. Contact the Office of Sustainability and Environment (www.seattle.gov/environment).

Understand the risk. Limiting exposure to new carbon regulation, increased energy costs, climate-induced weather damage, and bad public relations is good business.

Be a change agent. Support climate protection policies in your firm and at the local, state and federal levels of government. Work with your suppliers, employees and customers to be more energy efficient.

Invest in a greener future. Review your financial strategies to minimize your exposure to climate risk and maximize your upside in climate-solution investments.

Assess your impact, then act. Conduct an inventory of your greenhouse gas emissions, set reduction targets and develop an action plan. It's not only climate-friendly; it makes long-term sense for your bottom line.

Among the most fruitful things you can do:

- **Manage facility energy use:** Lighting is likely your biggest energy consumer. Use motion sensors and compact fluorescent lights. Tune your heating and cooling gear. Buy ENERGY STAR® equipment and power-efficient computers.
- **Employee commute programs:** Incorporate transit passes and incentives into employee benefits and provide lockers and showers for bicycle commuters.
- **Green the fleet and ship wisely:** Use the most fuel efficient vehicle for the job and consider less carbon-intensive shipping methods like rail or marine shipping instead of air to cut emissions and costs.
- **Reduce business travel emissions:** Flying is the most carbon-intensive travel method. Consider combining trips, using the train for shorter trips, and telephone-, video- and internet-conferencing.
- **Expanding or moving facilities?** Consider the impact of location. Site close to public transportation and business hubs so employees and customers can get to you without a car. Incorporate "green building" to increase energy efficiency.

In Your Community

Rally your neighbors. Start a neighborhood energy conservation project and apply for a Neighborhood Climate Protection Fund matching grant from the City.

Reduce, reuse and recycle. Nearly every product on the market requires energy to produce, distribute and dispose of. Recycle, because manufacturing with recycled materials cuts energy use. Choose pre-owned products, products that have recycled content and products with less packaging. Buy at salvage yards, construction demolition stores and consignment and thrift shops.

Offset emissions. While it's no replacement for direct action, carbon offset programs, which pool money from individuals or organizations to invest in emission-reduction projects elsewhere, are an important climate protection tool. TerraPass (terrapass.com) and The Climate Trust (climatetrust.org) are popular programs.

Talk about it! Your voice can make a difference. Start by taking actions listed here - and then encourage your friends, neighbors and family to act. Make even more of a difference by supporting strong local, state and federal climate protection policies.